Plans to Boost Inland Waterways System

244. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state what are the plans to give a boost to the inland waterways system and coastline shipping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): A total outlay of Rs. 225.73 crores has been earmarked for the development of inland water transport in the Seventh Five-Year Plan of which Rs. 155.00 crores is in the Central Sector and Rs. 70.73 crores is in the Plan of the States and Union Territories. The Central Schemes mainly include investment in Central Inland Water Transport Corporation for acquisition of additional fleet and modernisation of its Rajabagan Dockyard, research and developmental schemes, development of National Waterways, hydrographic surveys of important waterways, acquisition of survey launches and equipments, grant of interest subsidy to IWT entrepreneurs, provision of terminal facilities, technical studies, navigational aids and dredging of waterways etc.

In the State Sector provision has been made for improvement of waterways to make them useful for inland navigation.

For development, maintenance and management of the National Waterways, an Inland Waterways Authority of India has also been set up. This Authority will also act as a Research and Development Agency for Shipping and Navigation on inland waterways.

As regards coastline shipping, coordination of coastal operation, modernisation of coastal fleet, improvement of port facilities, rationalisation of custom and port procedure for fixation/revision of freight rates etc. are some of the steps being taken to develop coastal shipping. Besides, specific proposals to start cargo-passenger service on certain routes have also been suggested by some shipping companies.

Phasing out of old Telecommunications Switching system

245. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by when Government propose to phase out the old telecom technology in the strowger and cross-bar switching systems in the country;

(b) by when India is likely to manufacture totally indigenous digital switching system; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Switching equipment is usually replaced after it has served its useful life or it is totally worn out. As a consequence full phasing out of the strowger equipment will occur sometime after the year 2000. In respect of crossbar equipment, it is likely to be in production even in 90's and, therefore, phasing out of this equipment from the network will be much later.

(b) and (c) While indigenously designed small sized digital rural automatic exchanges are expected to be productionised in 1987-88, the larger sized equipment is still under development.

Schools at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

246. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open a Primary/Secondary School at Vasant Vihar Government Colony, New Delhi where allotment of Government accommodation has been made recently;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from the allottees/departments in this regard; and